

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S.S.N.: 10/675,457
Page 6 of 7

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 16 are pending in the present application. Claims 11-15 and 17 have been cancelled herein.

I. FORMAL MATTERS

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Final Office Action indicates that claims 1-10 and 16 are allowed. Applicant has cancelled claims 11-15 and 17 herein. Therefore, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

II. OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

The Examiner has objected to claim 17 because there is no antecedent basis for the "base part" and the "tube part." Claim 17 has been cancelled herein. Therefore, this objection to claim 17 is now moot.

III. PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 11-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 11-15 and 17 have been cancelled herein. Therefore, this rejection to claims 11-15 and 17 is now moot.

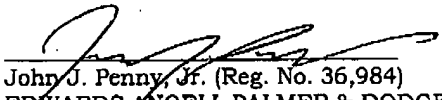
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S.S.N.: 10/675,457
Page 7 of 7

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and allowance is respectfully solicited.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for the subject application. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 1, 2006
Customer No.: 21874


John J. Penny, Jr. (Reg. No. 36,984)
EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE, LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
Tel.: (617) 517-5549
Fax: (617) 439-4170